



Los Angeles County
Sheriff's Department

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News Release

OLDEST SHERIFF'S HOMICIDE COLD CASE SOLVED THROUGH DNA EVIDENCE, AFTER 34 YEARS

On July 22, 1976, the body of Marcia Lynn Christian, FW/19, was found partially buried in the hills of the Castaic area, after being kidnaped and murdered. Christian, a nursing student, had been reported missing by her husband when she failed to return home from a job interview in the San Fernando Valley.

Sheriff's Homicide detectives identified Mark David Jackson, MW/Deceased, formally of Yreka, California, as the killer after performing a comparison match of DNA evidence submitted against the CAL-DNA Data Bank. Investigators determined that Jackson had an extensive criminal history of sexual offenses dating from childhood, and was diagnosed as a mentally disordered sex offender. He had a record of multiple kidnapping, rapes and child molestation charges, as well as firearms violations. Police reports established that Jackson died on August 15, 1997 at the age of 47, of a narcotics overdose in Klamath Falls, Oregon. Jackson had appeared in a Yreka court four days before his death on charges of willful child cruelty and being under the influence of a controlled substance.

The identification of Mark David Jackson, marks the oldest Sheriff's Homicide Bureau case to be solved using DNA evidence. For further information, contact Lieutenant Mike Rosson, Sheriff's Homicide Bureau at (323) 890-5572 or Homicide Case Analyst Stuart Reed at (323) 890 5659.

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